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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6231

BILL NUMBER: SB 75

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 24, 2006

BILL AMENDED: Jan 23, 2006

SUBJECT: Military Family Relief Fund.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Long

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: CR Adopted - 1st House

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
X DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill establishes the Military Family Relief Fund (Fund) to provide grants for essential family support expenses to the families of Indiana residents who: (1) are members of the Indiana National Guard or the armed forces reserves; and (2) have been called to active duty after September 11, 2001.

The bill allows the Veterans' Affairs Commission to establish the eligibility criteria and application and selection procedures for the grants. It requires the Director of Veterans' Affairs to report to the Budget Committee before August 1, 2006, on the grant determination procedures to be used. It also permits the Director of Veterans' Affairs or a member of the Commission to make a request to the General Assembly for an appropriation to the Fund. The bill annually appropriates any money in the Fund that is received from donations.

Effective Date: Upon passage; January 1, 2007.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Military Family Relief Fund:* This bill creates the Military Family Relief Fund. The purpose of the Fund is to provide assistance with food, housing, utilities, medical services, basic transportation, and other essential family support expenses that have become difficult to afford for families of members of the armed forces or National Guard who were called to active duty after September 11, 2001. The Director of the Department of Veterans' Affairs is to administer the Fund, which consists of the following: (a) appropriations made by the General Assembly, (b) donations, (c) interest, (d) money transferred to the Fund from other funds, and (e) money from any other source. The bill annually appropriates any money in the Fund that is received from donations. The Department is required to expend money in the Fund exclusively to provide grants for assistance.

The Director of the Department, after consulting with the Veterans' Affairs Commission, is required to report to the Budget Committee pertaining to: uniform need determination procedures; eligibility criteria; application procedures; selection procedures; coordination with other assistance programs; and other areas in which the Department adopts rules that it feels are necessary to ensure the uniform administration of the grant program.

Creation of Rules: The bill requires the Commission to adopt rules for the provision of grant money from the Fund. The expenses relating to the creation of these rules presumably could be implemented within the existing level of resources available to the Commission.

Background Information: As of January 2006, the Indiana National Guard had deployed 8,397 persons. There were 1,010 active military armed forces in Indiana during 2005.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of State Revenue; Indiana Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources:

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